FINDING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are several good reasons to start your research with reference materials.

- To gain an overview or historical background on your subject;
- To get suggestions for further reading;
- To get ideas on choosing a topic, or broadening or narrowing your topic

The specialized print and online encyclopedias and other reference books listed below (in call number order) may be of help to you. They cover a wide range of topics related to the many aspects of literary and psychological criticism. You can access all of the online resources by starting at the library home page and clicking on the **Journal Articles and Databases** link. If you want to find out if a particular reference title is available in one of the library’s online reference databases (**Credo, Gale Virtual Reference Library, Oxford Reference Online**), do a title search in the **catalog** ([www.innopac.hal.org](http://www.innopac.hal.org)).

*British Novelists, 1890-1929 : Modernists*  (REF PN86.D52 v.36) in DLB series  
*British Mystery Writers, 1860-1919*  (REF PN86.D52 v.70) in DLB series  
*Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*  (REF PN94.T83) vol. 8  
**Credo**  
**Gale Virtual Reference Library** (see screen shot below)
FINDING MATERIAL IN THE CATALOG

You are probably aware that Kelly Library belongs to a consortium of libraries known as HAL (Holston Associated Libraries), and has a catalog that contains the holdings of its four members (E & H, King University, Washington County Public Library and Tazewell County Public Library), and that your valid student ID will let you borrow books from any of these libraries. The four libraries have a relatively new service where, you can request items through the catalog, and have them delivered to Kelly Library. Besides containing the holdings of four libraries, the catalog has other powerful features, such as many ways to search and the ability to limit your search. Below is a screen shot from a keyword search on Dracula in the online catalog.

Kelly Library subscribes to several online databases that should help you find relevant material to support your viewpoints in your research paper. See below. You can access the online catalog, databases and other services from the main library page. The databases are located on the Journal Articles and Databases link.

FINDING MATERIAL IN ONLINE DATABASES

There are several databases that should be helpful in this class. Literature Online (LION), Literature Resource Center, Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection, PsycINFO, and WorldCat Classic appear to contain relevant material on the wide range of topics encompassed in this class. See the screen shot below from Literature Online (LION)
**Literature Online (LION)** – One of the leading online resources for the study and teaching of literature in English. It is a fully integrated service that combines the texts of over 357,250 volumes of literature with huge resources of criticism and reference.
See #9 citation below:

Literature Resource Center – single search access to an assortment of traditional literary reference works, critical information on authors and their works, current journal articles, and many additional resources.
Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection – covers information concerning topics in emotional and behavioral characteristics, psychiatry and psychology.

PsycINFO – contains more than 2 million citations and summaries of scholarly journal articles, book chapters, books and dissertations in psychology and related disciplines.
WorldCat Classic – includes millions of bibliographic records for items cataloged by OCLC member libraries. This is a good database to find materials (that are not owned by Kelly Library) for your research. You would use your interlibrary loan account to request these materials.

Some other databases that might be helpful in this class are Academic Search Complete (which you have used in English 101, English 100, or Transitions), General OneFile, JSTOR, and Project Muse—it just depends on your specific treatment of the topic.

WHAT IF THE DATABASE ARTICLE IS NOT FULL-TEXT?

If you find a non-full-text citation in one database, you can see if it is full-text in other online databases by checking the E-Journals by Title list under the Books, Articles, and More column on the library home page. If the periodical is full-text in another database to which Kelly Library subscribes, it will take you to that link. If the journal is not available online in another database, do a title search in the catalog. If Kelly Library owns the title, there will be a record for it in the catalog, and it will tell you what issues are available and in which format they are held. If it is not available at all in Kelly Library, you may want to obtain the item through interlibrary loan. If you have trouble using this e-journal article finder, please speak with the librarian providing reference service.

OBTAINING MATERIAL FROM OTHER LIBRARIES

As you look for articles to support your essays, you are sure to find citations to journals and books Kelly Library does not own. If your time frame permits, our staff will try to obtain a photocopy of the article, or borrow the book for you through the interlibrary loan process. To order material this way, click on the interlibrary loan under Services. If you have never used this service, you will need to register by clicking on the first time users button and registering identification and contact information. It is a good idea to read Kelly Library’s Interlibrary Loan Policy at this point. Then, you can proceed to the book and photocopy order forms. Please double check the online catalog and E-Journals by Title list to be sure that this library does not already own the material, and allow at least 7-10 working days to receive the items. If you have questions about this service, ask Patty Greany or Jane Caldwell.
DOCUMENTING YOUR SOURCES

Just as you have done in previous research projects, you must credit your sources whenever you quote an author’s exact words or use his or her unique ideas to avoid plagiarism. Documenting your sources also allows the reader of your work to locate your sources in its entirety. Kelly Library has the MLA Handbook, Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations (Turabian), Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, APA Style Guide to Electronic References and The Chicago Manual of Style on permanent reserve at the Circulation Desk. Use the documentation style Dr. Mitchell requires. Diana Hacker’s A Writer’s Reference (also on permanent reserve) has a good section on the APA, MLA, and Chicago styles. If you click on the Research Tips link under the Research heading, you will see links to the Diana Hacker (http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/) and Purdue University Online Writing Lab, OWL (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/) sites.

LIBRARY STAFF AND REFERENCE ASSISTANCE CONTACTS

The most valuable resource in the library is its staff. If you need help using or locating any of the materials mentioned in this handout, please ask a reference librarian or circulation staff member for assistance. If that staff member cannot help you, he or she will direct you to someone who can. The librarians are: Jane Caldwell, Patty Greany, Jody Hanshew, and Janet Kirby. The circulation staff members are: Adam Alley, Jennifer Bassett, David Lyons, Holly McCormick, and Janice Snead. There is a reference librarian on duty until 9pm Sunday-Thursday and all day Friday and Saturday during the regular semesters.

Also consider the helpful resources in the Writing Center and in the Academic Support Services / Powell Resource Center.

Remember: We’re here to help you with your information needs. Please don’t hesitate to ask us for help. You can reach us by:

- calling the Circulation Desk at ext. 6208
- emailing askalibrarian@ehc.edu
- visiting the library in person